The terms and conditions of the Licences, *inter-alia,* provide that at least 10 per cent of the District Headquarters will be covered in the first year and 50 per cent of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of licence. The licensees have also been permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters'towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50 per cent District Headquarters-towns lies with the licensee companies depending on their business decision. For non-coverage of 50 per cent of District Headquarters within a period of three years, penalty is imposed on the Licensee Company. Ms Reliance Telecom have been levied such penalty for non-coverage of 50 per cent of District Headquarters within a period of three years of effective date of licence.

Members of TAC nominated for Bihar

†3095. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the separate details of the members nominated at State and district level in Telecom Advisory Committee in Bihar alongwith their names and addresses; and

(b) the criterion fixed for their nomination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Carry forward of unutilised calls

3096. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tariff in respect of marginal subscribers of telephone has been increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to allow the carry forward of unutilised calls to the subsequent billing period to all subscribers or at least the marginal subscribers who make less number of calls; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) There is no separate category of telephone subscribers such as "marginal subscribers". However, the rent for low calling subscribers in urban areas has been increased in line with TRAI tariff order of March, 1999.

(c) and (d) At present there is no such proposal, as TRAI tariff orders of March, 1999 do not contain any such provision.

Provision of telephones to every village

3097. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide telephones to every village by 2002;

(b) if so, the details of strategy adopted in this regard; and

(c) the progress made so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government propose to provide telephone facility to every village of the country with the joint efforts of Private Basic Service Operators. New technology equipment like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and CDOT TDMA/PMP has been inducted in the network to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and telephone connections in the rural areas. VPTs will also be provided on landlines. Satellite based telephones are also proposed to be provided in remote and isolated villages of the country where no other technology is feasible.

(c) 410,757 out of 607,491 villages have been provided with telecom facility upto 31.07.2001.